Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 04602 051554Z

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8986

CONFIDENTIAL AMMAN 4602

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAID,JO

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN T.Q. FINANCING

REF: (A) STATE 219816, (B) AMMAN 4500

- 1. IN OBTAINING PRIME MINITER BADRAN'S FORMAL CLEARANCE ON \$1 MILLION T.Q. FUNDING FOR U.S. SCHOOLING PROGRAM FOR FORMER AUB STUDENTS (REFTEL A), I MENTIONED THAT I WOULD HOPE TO HAVE FINAL INSTRUCTIONS VERY SOON ON T.Q. PROGRAM FOR JORDAN.
- 2. BADRAN SAID HE TOO HOPES TO WRAP UP THIS ISSUE SOON;
 HIS GOVERNMENT IS NOW EMBARDED ON A MAJOR
 CAMPAIGN TO MEET INSITTENT PUBLIC DEMANDS FOR IMPROVED BASIC
 SERVICES PORT, WATER, TANSPORTATION, ETC). AND HE NEEDS
 EVERY PENNY HE CAN GET, SINCE JORDAN BUDGET PROBLEM IS
 SEVERE
- 3. BADRAN APPEARED WELL-BRIEFED ON SUBJECT AND HAD NO PROBLEM WITH ACCEPTING THE JORDAN VALLEY SPRINKLER PROJECT OR GOJ FUNDIN OF U.S. SCHOOLING FOR FORMER AID-SPONSORED AUB STUDENTS (REF B). HE DID BALK HOWEVER WHEN IN MENTINED THAT THERE IS STILL POSSIBILITY SOME FUNDING FR UNRWA MIGHT BE REQUIRED FROM JORDANIAN PROGRAM. BADRAN SAID AMBASSADOR PICKERING HAD BRIEFLY MENTIONED THIS SUBJECT BEFORE HE LFET BUT THAT PM HOPES JORDANIAN FUNDING CAN BE AVOIDED. IN REPLY I SAID THAT I HOPED TO HAVE SOME DEFINITE WORD ON UNRWA FUNDING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 04602 051554Z

QUESTION SOON. I ALSO INDICATED THAT WE WERE LUCKY, GIVEN

JORDAN'S BUDGET DIFFICULTIES, TO HAVE CURRENT HIGH LEVEL OF T.Q. FUNDS AVAILABLE, SINCE WE HAD INITIALLY THOUGHT THAT JORDAN WOULD ONLY RECIEVE \$16-18 MILLION AT MOST.

4.COMMENT: IT OBVIOUS FROM ABOVE CONVERSATION WITH BADRAN THAT GOJ WILL HAVE PROBLEM WITH FUNDING EVEN \$1.5 MILLION UNRWA, TO SAY NOTHING OF ENTIRE \$6 MILLION. WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THEREFORE THAT WAY CAN BE FOUND TO AVOID HAVING TO HAND-WRESTLE BADRAN ONTHIS ISSUE. JORDANIANS HAVE BEEN GRACIOUS IN ACCEPTING AND HELPING TO DEVELOP THE PROJECT SASSISTANCE THAT WE HAVE PROPOSED IN THE T.Q. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE NOW IF U.S. INSISTENCE ON GOJ FUNDING OF UNRWA PROGRAMS INDUCED GOJ TO START ARGUING OVER LEVEL OF PROJECT ASSISTANCE. SUDDARTH

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